

### REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully sought.

Claims 1-62 are pending, with Claims 1, 14, 21, 30, 36, 37, 53 and 61 being independent. Claims 1, 14, 21, 30 and 36 have been amended.

Claims 1 through 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, and to expedite prosecution, claims 1, 14, 21 and 30 have been amended. Applicants submit that all claims are in compliance with Section 112.

Claims 1 through 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Matsumoto (U.S.P. 4,860,026) in view of Suzuki (U.S.P. 4,551,736) and Sugimoto (U.S.P. 5,477,248). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Matsumoto, et al. discloses a recording apparatus using inks having similar colors and different dye densities (thin, mid and thick).

Suzuki discloses the composition of plural inks having similar colors and different dye densities. Suzuki's goal is to reduce the variation in the diameters of ink droplets formed on the recording medium (See Col. 2, lines 38-46). To attain this purpose, Suzuki defines the viscosity difference among the plural inks having different density.

Sugimoto relates to the penetrability of ink. The penetrabilities of the inks are different in accordance with their colors, in order to prevent blurring, particularly in a light color, namely, yellow.

According to the present invention as presently claimed in Claims 1, 14, 21, 30 and 36, the plurality of inks having different dye densities and similar colors are inks having different penetrabilities from each other. Moreover, ink having low dye density has a penetrability with respect to the recording medium superior to the penetrability of ink having high dye density, so that the spread of ink droplets having high dye density deposited on the recording medium is different from the spread of ink droplets having low dye density. Accordingly, the graininess of the images formed by the low dye density ink is reduced, and the images formed by high dye density ink are sharp.

Applicants take the position that none of the references, either alone or in the combinations proposed by the Examiner, discloses or suggests the claimed feature, that is, of the different penetrabilities of inks having different dye densities and similar colors.

Claims 36 through 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Matsumoto (U.S.P. 4,860,026) in view of Suzuki (U.S.P. 4,551,736). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 37, 53 and 61 recite that the inks having different dye densities and similar colors are divided and held in the same container. Neither of the cited references discloses or teaches such feature. Accordingly, Applicants submit that these claims are also patentable over the cited art. ✓

Applicants therefore request that all Section 112 and 103 rejections be withdrawn and that the application be passed to allowance.

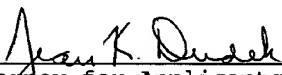
The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that a full appreciation of these amendments will not require undue time or effort given the Examiner's familiarity with this application. Moreover, this Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly,

entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 347-8100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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